

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of July 17-July 21, 2006**

1. **DC Comp Plan Revised:** A revised version of the draft DC Comprehensive Plan has just been issued. It is available at www.inclusivitycity.org. In addition to policies in many subject areas, there are policies tailored to specific neighborhoods. The element for the area adjacent to Takoma Park is titled "Rock Creek East." The Takoma Park City Council is scheduled to adopt a resolution commenting on the DC Comprehensive Plan at its meeting of July 31. The DC Council will vote on the Plan in the fall. (*Community & Government Liaison*)

2. **Salt Dome Construction:** The new salt storage facility at Public Works is nearing completion. The walls were installed last week and this weekend the dome top will be put in place. Staff have been assisting with site grading and installing erosion control measures at the perimeter. (*Public Works*)

3. **Status Report for The Restoration Project:** In December 2004, the sewage pumps on the 1st floor of the Community Center stopped functioning properly causing flooding in several offices in the old section of the Police Department. In an effort not to disrupt ongoing construction, a decision was made to delay the restoration of the offices until the construction of the Community Center was completed. On Tuesday, July 18, 2006, the contractors started restoring the offices affected by the flood in 2004. The contractors estimate that the Restoration Project should be completed by Friday, August 11, 2006. (*Construction Project Manager*)

4. **Candidates Forum:** City TV staff covered the Takoma Voice Candidates Forum on Thursday, July 20, featuring the District 20 State Senate candidates, Sen. Ida Ruben and Jamin Raskin. This will be replaying on City TV and is available on the City web site as a video archive. (*City TV*)

5. **Police Training:** A Safety Perspective, offered by the police training commission. Two detectives attended Prostitution Investigation training offered by the Montgomery County police. Numerous staff attended training updates for the national computerized crime information system. (*Police*)

6. **Officers in Meetings:** The COP Team officers attended meetings with the CSAFE HEAT Team, apartment resident managers from Maple Avenue, and the new New Hampshire Avenue business association. Sgt. Gilbert spends occasional afternoons as a supervisor in the summer weight room at Blair High School as an element of his on-going work with the school's football team. (*Police*)

7. **Crime Report (Ward 6):** Criminal Investigations reports an emerging pattern of strong arm robberies at night in the area of New Hampshire and University. Victims have been adult Hispanic males with the robberies occurring at night, with one or two Hispanic male suspects. Incidents have taken place on June 21 about 8:15 p.m. in the 7600 block of New Hampshire, June 22 about 9:15 p.m., and July 17 about 4 a.m. in the 1300 block of University. (*Police*)

8. Warrant for Arrest (Ward 6): D/Cpl John has obtained an arrest warrant for a suspect in the Dec. 21, 2005 armed robbery that occurred in the lobby of a commercial building in the 1300 block of University Blvd. The suspect is currently incarcerated for unrelated robbery charges in Montgomery County. The suspect is implicated in numerous similar commercial robberies in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia leading to the expectation that he will be charged federally. An accomplice, seen in video surveillance of the Takoma Park incident, is still sought. *(Police)*

9. Traffic Enforcement (All Wards): The majority of the week's 72 traffic stops resulted in citations or warnings. More than half of the stops took place on Maple, New Hampshire and Philadelphia Avenues. *(Police)*

10. New Officers (Wards 1 & 6): The three newest Takoma Park officers have been released from field training and have received permanent squad and beat assignments: Ofc. Barber (X8) joined Sgt. Skibicki's squad, Ofc. Eckford (V2) joined Sgt. Bowers' squad and Ofc. Quante (V2) will work with Sgt. Hammond's squad. *(Police)*

11. Hampshire Towers (Ward 6): Tenants residing at Hampshire Towers will have the opportunity to attend three (3) meetings in August that are being sponsored by Montgomery County and the Housing and Community Initiatives, Inc. The meetings are being provided to assist tenants in making their decisions about whether they want to become condominium owners or remain as renters. The meetings will focus on the home buying process and low interest loan opportunities available from the county and state. Tenants have until September 30, 2006 to register their decision with the developers. *(Housing and Community Development)*

12. ICG Development (Wards 1 and 3): ICG announced this morning in an OTBA meeting that they had decided not to proceed at this time with the proposed mixed use development at Westmoreland Carroll Avenue. They are working with a broker to lease the former Talliano space on Carroll Avenue. *(Housing and Community Development)*

13. 2006 Community Legacy Application (Wards 1, 2, 3, and 6): HCD staff met with the Community Legacy Review Team on Wednesday, July 12 for a site visit of the two proposed Community Legacy projects - streetscape improvements on the commercial section of Carroll Avenue and the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor initiative. Awards are to be announced later this summer. *(Housing and Community Development)*

14. Vacant, Neglected and Abandoned Properties Initiative (City-wide): HCD staff has begun to inventory properties in the community for possible inclusion in this new initiative. The information collected during this phase will be used to determine what properties will require further intervention on the part of the City to address ongoing concerns regarding their condition or use. *(Housing and Community Development)*

15. Landlord Certification (City-wide): HCD staff conducted another landlord certification on Thursday, July 20. Ten local landlords and/or property agents attended representing a variety of rental properties in the community. Participants were certified in accordance with the City's ordinance which requires certification prior to the issuance of a rental license. *(Housing and Community Development)*

16. **New Hampshire Avenue (Wards 2, 3, and 6):** Housing and Community Development staff and Mayor Porter met with Will Campos this week to discuss City initiatives regarding redevelopment, beautification, and businesses support and to look for ways to partner with Prince Georges County. Staff also met with the Enterprise Foundation in Baltimore to explore redevelopment options. *(Housing and Community Development)*
17. **Enterprise Zone Meeting (Wards 2, 3, and 6):** The HCD Department held an Enterprise Zone meeting for businesses in the area of New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard on Wednesday, July 19th. Damon Penn of Maryland Small Business Development Association (SBDC) explained the variety of business support programs offered by the SBDC for established businesses and start-ups. Mary Kendall and Gretchen Hilburger introduced the CSAFE program to the attending business owners and Sgt. Gilbert of Takoma Park Police gave an update on area criminal activity. Ilona Blanchard of the Housing and Community Development Department briefed the businesses on planning activities along the corridor. For more information, please contact David Suls at 301-891-7219. *(Housing and Community Development)*
18. **Upcoming Events Reminder:** National Night Out will be Tuesday, August 1, with events planned at 7315 New Hampshire, 7777 Maple and in Old Town, between 6 and 9 p.m. The Council will host a reception for retiring Chief Cindy Creamer on Monday, July 31, 6:30-7:30 p.m. *(Police)*
19. **Liz Lerman Dance Exchange:** The Recreation staff met with Elizabeth Johnson, Teen Exchange Director for the Liz Lehrman Dance Exchange. Partnership opportunities were discussed for the next year. The City and the Dance Exchange will be sponsoring several teens to participate in their National Teen Institute which is held in August, right here in Takoma Park. Interested parties should contact the recreation director at 301-891-7226. *(Recreation)*
20. **Big Bad Woof:** Takoma Park Recreation Department met with the Big Bad Woof about several partnership opportunities. First they are going to co-sponsor the City's Canine Costume Contest event on October 28, donating doggie cake, refreshments, treats and gifts to the winners. The store and website will assist in advertising our dog training classes and seminars and we will supply free coupons to the new store. We are very excited to start this new partnership. *(Recreation)*
21. **Summer Camps:** The TPRD Summer camps are now in their fourth week. Two new camps started this year, Abrakadoodle Art Camp and an Intro to Theater Camp. The Creative Adventures, Recess and Extreme Horizons camps have been busy as well, taking trips to see the Nationals, swimming, amusement parks, Port Discovery and many more. Presenters like Amy O'Neil Houck, a local resident who taught knitting, the Downtown Music Exchange, and Mad Science have provided fun and interesting options for the participants. Camps run through August 11, 2006. *(Recreation)*